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THE FRIDAY LETTER

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ASFSA 1990 -- COOKING IN NEW ORLEANS!

By **Bonnie Fuller, SWRO**

Conjure up a thought of what the average person thinks goes into a school breakfast or lunch. It's a vision something like this -- a kitchen full of folks get together each school morning, look at the designated menu for the day, whip up a meal, do the dishes and head home for the day.

But spend a few days in New Orleans at the annual national conference of the American School Food Service Association and a more accurate picture of the school food service employee's job is apparent -- a job that is very demanding and complex.

The six-day event, July 13-18, centered around a nautical theme of "Sail into the 90s for Program Excellence" and encompassed seminars and workshops on subjects such as: continuing college education, labor relations, marketing, purchasing, school nutrition and its impact on health, youth and parent involvement, legislation and public policy, sanitation, interpersonal communication skills, customer service for kids, and media management.

FNS was extensively involved in this 44th annual conference. Both Assistant Secretary **Catherine Bertini** and Administrator **Betty Jo Nielsen** spoke before thousands of association members at general sessions--each praising the food service employees for the outstanding job they do feeding and nurturing our nation's children.

George Brailey, associate administrator, gave a presentation on legislative intent.

Gene Dickey, SWRO regional administrator, spoke in a session focusing on child nutrition programs as links in the educational chain. **Alberta Frost**, HQ; **Bob Freller**, MARO; **Hap Pullum**, SWRO; and **Virginia Ross**, HQ, presented a commodity workshop. **Lou Pastura**, HQ, held a session explaining a new USDA-developed training package and **Lanna Bushman**, SERO, spoke to a group on recognizing reimbursable meals.

In the mammoth exhibit hall, among the 500-plus displays of food, beverages, containers, cooking equipment and nutritional information, was the agency's exhibit. There, the smiling faces of **Lori French**, **Lou Pastura**, and **Marlene Benemann**, all from HQs, greeted attendees. They touted a new training videocassette and technical assistance materials on the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs. A sample of the videocassette played in the exhibit's background drawing positive reviews from passers-by and comments expressing need for a training tool like this one.

For a week, those in the school lunch business gathered from all over the country to learn from each other. And in seeing this conglomeration of professionals, the earlier vision of "a few folks getting together to whip up a meal for the school kids" vastly expanded. It grew to include everyone who makes school food service happen -- public employees at the federal, state and local levels, private industry, school district management -- and the people on the front line, the cafeteria workers who roll into the school parking early each morning to see that our children get what they need from them -- nutritious, appealing, affordable meals served with concern.



Marlene Beneman, Lou Pastura and Lori French show off the FNS exhibit to Betty Jo Nielsen.



PICNIC 1990

Headquarters "Chills Out"..."
BJN and GB Stay on the Job





Hurry--Last Week to Sign Up for U.S. Savings Bonds!

by Sheila Little

The FNS U.S. Savings Bond Campaign drive is entering its final week. The Agency's goal is to achieve 50 percent overall participation and to get 10 percent of current savers to increase their payroll savings allotments. Savings bonds are a safe investment, earn competitive rates and have tax advantages. If you have not signed up yet, see your savings bond representative today!



FNS Associate Administrator George Braley (seated) signs up for savings bonds as savings bonds campaign coordinator Sheila Little and Larry Felix of Department of Treasury look on.

EMPLOYEE PROFILE...

Janet Allen--Resident Poet of the Western Regional Office

Janet Allen began to do something last year that she'd dreamed of for almost 13 years: share her poetry. Although Janet had been writing poetry for many years, she had rarely shared it with others, and never in a public setting.

Former Western Region Deputy Administrator Jack Boozer was one of her inspirations for overcoming her shyness about sharing her creative talents. Jack had shared with Janet his story of pursuing his dream of painting with water colors despite his being color blind.

Last fall, Janet shared two of her poems with her coworkers, most of whom knew nothing of her talents. In a regional employee newsletter, Janet shared two poems which expressed her feelings following the October 17 earthquake that hit the Bay Area.

Although accustomed to sharing ideas related to the job, Janet says that it was "scarier" to share her personal thoughts, expressed through her poetry, with her coworkers. Recently, when Jack Boozer transferred to the Southeast Region, Janet had another opportunity to share her poetry with regional staff,

Traces of Paint

*Canvasses transform for you now
Arizona deserts swirl into Georgia
peach orchards*

*How sweet the thoughts
to once again stroll
magnolia lanes*

*With your departure
I think
not of office lumberings
position
authority
but of muted
placid landscapes
gracing hallways*

*hues of green and blue
violet and pink
which you brush
without seeing their vibrancy*

*Of all that you are
and have been here
to me
you are
inspiration
seen beyond the color of your vision
to paint your passion*

*You carry away
your portfolio
your easel
your palette
We retain the traces of paint
splashed along the way*

*Janet Allen
June 1990*

reading a poem she wrote for Jack during his farewell.

Janet came to the Western Region Food Stamp Program just over six years ago. She was recently promoted to the position of Program Operations Section I Chief, which she says she finds challenging. "There's something different every day," says Janet. "I enjoy working with staff and learning more about management."

Before becoming a Food Program Specialist, Janet served in the Peace Corps as an agriculture

extension agent in Sierre Leone, West Africa. The language and other memories of her Peace Corps experience are kept fresh as Keith McNeil and Krister Engdahl of her staff also served as volunteers in Sierre Leone.

When not working, Janet participates in writing workshops and poetry readings, which "are both scary and exciting." On weekends, she can be found cheering for the Oakland A's, running, dancing at her favorite African night club, or "just being lazy."

First FNS Employee Recognized by Yeutter

"It is with a great sense of pride and spirit of volunteerism that I congratulate you on being the first FNS employee to be recognized by the Department for your contribution as part of the President's "Points of Light" Initiative," said Betty Jo Nelsen to Emma Ward.

Emma was recently recognized by Secretary Yeutter for her volunteer service with the Van Ness Elementary School. In a letter from Yeutter he said, "I am proud of the exceptional individuals who are part of our community at the Department of Agriculture. Through your efforts, life for many has been made better." In addition to the letter, Emma received a Certificate of Appreciation signed by the Secretary that said "for volunteer service as a tutor and dedicated support of our Partnership in Education with Van Ness Elementary School."

Emma has been a volunteer tutor with USDA's Partnership in Education program for six years, tutoring both math and reading. Emma volunteers her time with the children at Van Ness because she enjoys sharing knowledge and helping others. She places a great value on education. Emma feels, "if you have an education you have choices in life."



Emma thinks the children at Van Ness are wonderful to work with--eager to absorb what you teach them. What Emma has found in working with the children is that somewhere along the way they may have missed a link in the chain of learning a particular concept. In some instance, all that the children may need is to have someone give a little individual attention to have the link connected to get them back on their way.

She reinforces their learning and desired behavior through lots of praise and positive statements. One of her favorite poems is by

Dennis Whatley called "If you Think You can, You can." A favorite story for positiveness is "The Little Engine that Could" where the engine tells itself "I

think I can, I think I can," and finally says "I know I can." "That's what I want the children to realize," says Emma.

Emma feels that in the six years that she has been at Van Ness, the staff, faculty, and children have appreciated everything that all the participants in this program have done.

Emma is a Food Program Specialist for the Program Accountability Division in the Food Stamp Program. She has been with FNS since 1981, and recently received her 25-year federal service award.



Emma Ward, right, gets congratulations from Betty Jo Nelsen.



ON THE HILL

Both the House and Senate have passed their respective versions of the Farm Bill. The Senate passed S. 2830 on July 27. The House passed H.R. 3950 on August 1.

In the Senate, amendments ranged from allowing food stamps to be used at restaurants that offer reduced prices to the homeless, to program integrity issues where penalties were established or increased for stores that abuse food stamp redemptions. The Senate also had several amendments that affect the commodity programs, such as continuing a preference for donation of cheese (and non-fat dry milk) to the Commodity Supplemental Food Program, and improving the food package offered in the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations.

The House moved ahead of its original schedule and passed the Farm Bill without amendments from the floor. The only section that is changed from the bill as reported by the House Agriculture Committee is Section 1762 (requiring Social Security Numbers and Employer Identification numbers from retailers), which was deleted by the House Committee on Ways and Means.

Congress is now on recess and will not return until the first week in September. The next step for the Farm Bill will be a conference between the House and Senate to work out the many differences between the two versions.

AROUND THE COUNTRY

Gene Dickey to Retire As SWRO Administrator

After serving FNS for over 22 years, Gene P. Dickey, Regional Administrator of the Southwest Regional Office, will be retiring on August 18. Gene will assume responsibility as President and CEO of PMI-McLaughlin, a Dallas-based company which offers electronic monitoring services of prisoners and probationers to Federal, State, and local criminal justice organizations. Gene has made many valuable contributions to FNS, and he will be missed very much! Mike Montgomery, Deputy Regional Administrator-SWRO, will be acting Regional Administrator until further notice.



Regional News

--The Regional Administrators Meeting will be held next week. Meetings will be at the Old Colony Inn, and also at Park Center. On



Craig Forman of MPRO, Jerry Redding of SERO, Dick Montoya of WRO, Judy Snow of SWRO, Charles DeJullus of NERO and Phil Shanholtzer of OGAPI's News Branch managed to get at least one laugh out of the public affairs directors' meeting.

Public Affairs Directors Meet to Swap Ideas

OGAPI Director Dick Thaxton wanted ideas when he got together with the public affairs directors from the seven regional offices -- and he got two days' worth.

The regional directors were in Washington last week for their annual meeting, and Thaxton had assigned them in advance to brainstorm ways to promote FNS programs. They came through, he said.

In meetings at FNS headquarters and the Ritz-Carlton Hotel at Pentagon City, the public affairs directors bombarded the OGAPI chief with ideas for, among other things, brochures, cartoons, videos, group meetings, T-shirts, the need for an FNS logo or symbol, and better access to the mass media.

"I've always said I'm willing to listen to a hundred bad ideas to get at one good idea," Thaxton said. "Last week I listened to a hundred good ideas, and my only question now is what we're going to do with them all."

The directors also got updates on the program areas, and even had time for a little socializing. They lunched with Administrator Betty Jo Nelsen and Assistant Secretary Catherine Bertini, cracked crabs at Ernie's Crab House in Alexandria, and sampled New Mexican fare at Santa Fe East.

Friday, the Administrators will have lunch with Deputy Secretary Parnell.

--In June, NERO volunteers planted 150 balsam fir seedlings at a large inner-city Boston park. The seedlings were provided by the U.S. Forest Service. .

--SERO recently received a Fitness Center Award. FNS was recognized with the highest percentage of usage of the fitness center during a recent competition. FNS was congratulated on its efforts in working together as a team to demonstrate its commitment to wellness. Other agencies participating in the competition were U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, General Services Administration, Drug Enforcement Agency, and Office of Personnel Management.

--Dean Duncan and Donna Appleton of MPRO have developed a system that will allow states to create their own food stamp quality control data reports. By using the new Statistical Analysis System (SAS), and input from interested states, Duncan and Appleton designed menus and a user's guide to let states generate reports at either state or county levels.

--With planning input from public health, pediatric and nutrition resources from six states, Vee Ann Miller of MPRO's WIC staff and Cynthia Chung of the Public Health Service have coordinated the third and final regional lactation management conference that will be held in Rapid City, South Dakota, September 17-19. The conference is geared toward increasing breastfeeding among Native American populations.



Administrator Betty Jo Nelsen visited the Mid-Atlantic Regional Office for the first time last week. Here she talks with Food Stamp Program staff members Jim Goodale, Ralph Picone, John Garrett and Elba Ortega.

PROGRAM NEWS

Special Nutrition

--The 1990 meeting of the National Advisory Council on Maternal, Infant and Fetal Nutrition took place August 8-10 at FNS HQs. Council members received updates on significant WIC and CSFP issues, including program goals, new legislation and developments since the 1989 Council meeting. Members also participated in panel discussions of topics of interest to these programs. Topics included: program integrity, food cost inflation, coordination, administration, and drug and nutrition education. The Council formulated recommendations for its legislatively mandated report to Congress and the President. These recommendations will be reported on in the next issue of the Friday Letter. Council members represent the full gamut of professional and public interests that are associated with the delivery of benefits in the Supplemental Food Programs.

--The Paperwork Reduction Task Force met July 30-August 3 to discuss paperwork reduction is-

sues as required by PL 101-147. In response to a Notice published in the Federal Register, 425 comments were received addressing child nutrition program issues, 166 for food distribution and 2 for nutrition and technical services. The task force was composed of representatives of the Legislative Committee of the American School Food Service Association; Child Nutrition Program Directors at the regional, State and local levels; and representatives from FDD, NTSD, and CND at the headquarters level. Recommendations from this task force will be included in the November 10th report to Congress. Task force members who attended this one-time meeting supported an ongoing group to continue dialogue on these and other issues. They endorsed and complimented FNS's commitment to streamline the burdens for regional, State and local operators.

NTSD's Pat Daniels Leaving FNS, Moving to Nashville

By Joe Shepherd

Patricia N. "Pat" Daniels, popular Chief of the Nutrition Science and Education Branch in NTSD, is leaving her post to take up residence in Nashville, Tennessee.

Pat's husband, Freeman, has been named as the USDA liaison officer with Tennessee State University, an 1890 Land Grant Institution.

On August 9, many of Pat's friends and colleagues gathered at FNS Headquarters to say good-bye and wish her well.

The 15-year FNS veteran, winner of the Department's Superior Service Award in 1985, built a team of nutrition and education specialists which has provided outstanding technical support for the FNS food assistance programs. Pat's talents and leadership abilities will be sorely missed.



U.S. SAVINGS BONDS

THE GREAT AMERICAN INVESTMENT

FNS, HHS Coordinate Efforts on Food Stamp and AFDC Policy

by Margaret Thell

As part of an ongoing effort to reduce unnecessary differences in the requirements of the Food Stamp Program and the Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) program, FNS and the Family Support Administration (FSA) have recently coordinated policy in several areas. Some examples of this effort to increase consistency and enable social services workers to better serve needy families are:

Both agencies instructed State social service agencies to disregard the census income in determining food stamp and AFDC eligibility and benefits.

Both agencies are exchanging policy instructions issued to State agencies.

At both the regional and national levels, representatives of the agencies have met to coordinate policy and procedures for employment and training programs.

Proposed fraud control regulations issued by FSA were modeled after the Food Stamp Program regulations regarding intentional program violations in order to minimize procedural differences between the Programs.

The agencies check with each other before issuing waivers of the requirement that States verify an applicant's alien status through the Immigration and Naturalization Service's automated alien verification system. The agencies also coordinate action on waivers States request to achieve program consistency.

Food stamp staff participated in an interdepartmental task force to standardize requirements for the automated data processing systems used by State social service departments to process AFDC and food stamp cases.

Food stamp staff also participated in meetings responsible for improving procedures used in verifying client income and resource information through computer matching.

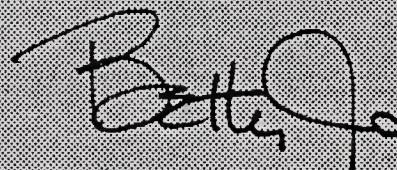
Speaking personally...

Recently I sent a notice out inviting you to participate in the "Summer of Caring" food drive to benefit the Capital Area Community Food Bank. It's a worthy organization that distributes at least 500,000 pounds of food each month.

The food drive runs through the month of August. A collection box for canned and other non-perishable food will be placed on the 9th Floor near the supply room.

This effort is part of the President's "Points of Light" program which encourages federal employees and citizens to volunteer their time, talent and resources to help others. You all are known for your caring and generosity, and I am sure that this drive will be success!

Remember... "see the bin, drop it in."



FNS is creating a database of more than 70 areas in which food stamp and AFDC procedures differ and identifying differences that require legislative action for change.

Legislation pending in Congress is reviewed to determine the extent to which it would increase consistency. The results of the reviews are

provided to decision makers to be factored into the work done on legislation.

Coordination with FSA to reduce differences in program procedures whenever possible is a continuing priority. FNS welcomes additional suggestions for action in this area.

THE FUTURE IS YOURS...



New education features for U.S. Savings Bonds can benefit adults as well as children. If you have plans for future education for yourself or your spouse, ask your canvasser about possible tax benefits on U.S. Savings Bonds purchased after January 1, 1990.

U.S. SAVINGS BONDS

THE GREAT AMERICAN INVESTMENT



FROM THE HEALTH UNIT

Meet the Challenge...
The Presidential
Sports Award

Presidential Sports Award program was developed by the President's Council on Physical Fitness & Sports. Its purpose is to motivate adults to become more physically active throughout life, and emphasizes regular exercise rather than outstanding performance.



The challenge of the Presidential Sports Award is to make a commitment to fitness through active and regular participation in sports

and fitness activities. Earning the Award means that you have put in time and effort to meet the challenge of personal fitness. Encourage your family, friends, teammates, and fellow employees to join in earning the Award.

The Award package includes: a certificate of achievement from President Bush, a letter of congratulations from Arnold Schwarzenegger, the Chairman of the Council, a patch embroidered with the emblem signifying the sport of fitness activity you chose, and MORE!

To earn the Award you (1) select your sport or fitness activity (you can choose more than one!). Choose from 49 sports and fitness activities...you can earn as many Awards in as many categories as you like; (2) keep a fitness log. The Health Unit has all the information and logs to get you started! Just drop in and see **Barbara Perkey** and get ready to "meet the challenge!"

Some of the sports or fitness activities you can choose from are:

- fitness walking
- golf
- karate
- baseball
- running, jogging
- tennis, racquetball
- skiing

AND MANY MORE!

CPR Mouthpieces Available
In Some FNS Offices

Several employees have successfully completed CPR training through the combined efforts of the FNS Health Unit and The American Red Cross. The health unit has also made available "Mouth Pieces" (CPR Mask) for each floor located as listed:

- 2nd. Floor - Pat Carlson's desk in room 206 - 756-3115
- 3rd. Floor - Chris Beaver's desk in room 304 - 756-3810
- 4th. Floor - Molly Lynch's desk in room 409 - 756-3048
- 5th. Floor - Mary Milli's desk in room 503 - 756-3680
- 6th. Floor - FIRST AID BOX in 618 - 756-3374
- 7th. Floor - Susan English desk in room 710 - 756-3022
- 8th. Floor - Marilyn Kelly's desk in room 819 - 756-3286
- 9th. Floor - Evelyn Younger's desk in room 910 - 756-3220
- 10th. Floor - Sharon Wynne's desk in room 1017 - 756-3730

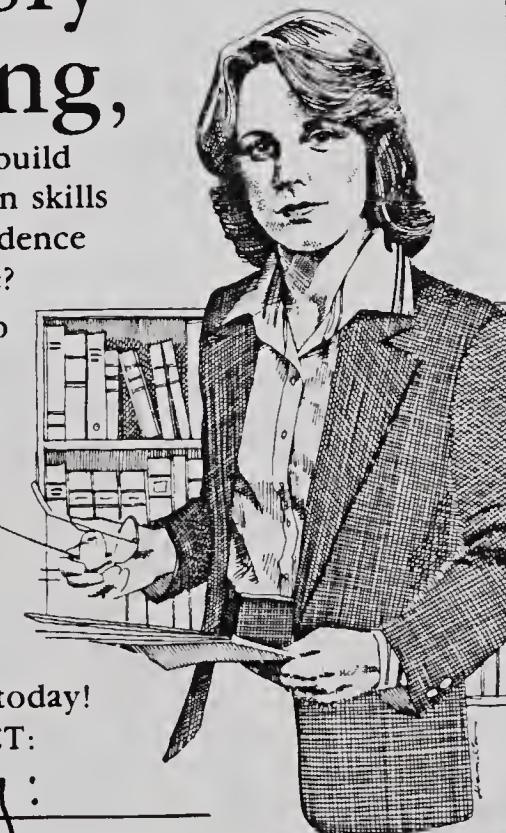
If you have any questions, or would like to sign up for CPR class, please call the Health Unit on 756-6000.

Seriously
Speaking,

Would you like to build your communication skills while gaining confidence in all aspects of life?

A Toastmasters club will help you to:

- SPEAK clearly and confidently
- THINK on your feet
- LISTEN effectively



Visit a club today!

CONTACT:

Next Mtg:

8/21, 12:00, 4th FL. Conf. Rm.

TOASTMASTERS FOR BETTER
LISTENING, THINKING AND SPEAKING

Friday Letter Vacancy Listing by Vacancy Number

JOB TITLE	AREA OF CONSID.	SERIES	GRADE	CLOSING DATE	VACANCY NUMBER	OFFICE LOCATION
Supvry Home Economist	(A)	GM-0493	14	09/24/90	90-H-89*	HNIS
Food Program Specialist	(FNS/HQ)	GS-0120	12	08/20/90	90-98	SFPD
Grants Management. Spec.	(A)	GS-0501	13	08/13/90	90-99	GMO
Secretary (Typing)	(A)	GS-0318	3/4/5	08/13/90	90-100	BRD
Supvry. Program Analyst	(A)	GS-0345	14	08/13/90	90-101	OAE
Clerk-Typist	(A)	GS-0322	3/4	08/20/90	90-103	OGAPI
Clerk-Typist	(A)	GS-0322	2/3/4	08/27/90	90-104	SFPD
Secretary (Typing)	(A)	GS-0318	3/4/5	08/27/90	90-105	SFPD

Office Location

FDD - Food Distribution Division
 OAE - Office of Analysis and Evaluation
 SFPD - Supplemental Food Program
 GMO - Grants Management Office
 BMD - Benefit Redemption Division
 HNIS - Human Nutrition Information Service
 OGAPI - Office of Governmental Affairs and Public Information

* - Reannounced to extend the Area of Consideration

Area of Consideration

(A) - All Sources
 (FNS-HQ) - Food and Nutrition Service Headquarters wide

R E M I N D E R ...
 We're still accepting FRIDAY LETTER surveys. Results will be in the next issue.

Darlene L. Barnes, Editor
Pamela Faith, Photography
Phil Shanholtzer, Mary Morris
Desktop Publishing and Design

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UPCOMING EVENTS...

AUGUST

13-16 Work Force Diversity Task Team Meeting, FNS Headquarters

15 Pizza Party II -- the Sequel! 5:00 pm, Room 400.

15-17 Regional Administrators Meeting Old Colony Inn, Alexandria, VA

17 End of Savings Bond Campaign (Don't forget to sign up!)

19-22 American Public Welfare Association Food Stamp Directors' Conference Rapid City, SD

ALL MONTH..."Summer of Caring Food Drive"